

Message Text

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63

ACTION OES-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJ: OZONE MEETING - PRESS RELEASE

REF NAIROBI 12826

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNEP PRESS RELEASE ON SUBJECT CONFERENCE:

QUOTE.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE OZONE LAYER.

THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) IS TO CONVENE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MARCH NEXT YEAR TO DISCUSS RISKS TO THE OZONE LAYER, RESULTING FROM ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION. THE MEETING, WHICH IS TO BE HOSTED BY THE US GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON FROM 1-9 MARCH, WILL BE ATTENDED BY INTERNATIONAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

OZONE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN LIFE ON THE EARTH,
PROTECTING THE ATMOSPHERE FROM EXCESSIVE ULTRA-VIOLET
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RAYS EMITTED BY THE SUN, AND THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

WILL STRESS THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF MAN'S IMPACT ON THE OZONE SHIELD, ALSO THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY TO TACKLE THE GLOBAL PROBLEM.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL INCLUDE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE QUOTE NATURAL UNQUOTE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER, HEALTH EFFECTS OF ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION, OZONE LAYER AND AIRCRAFT EMISSIONS, COMPARATIVE COSTS OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE CONTROL STRATEGIES AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF REGULATIONS TO CONTROL EMISSIONS OF CHEMICALS AFFECTING THE OZONE LAYER.

DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS SCIENTISTS HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE RELEASE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF SUBSTANCES WHICH MAY DEplete THE OZONE LAYER THROUGH CHEMICAL REACTION. OXIDES OF NITROGEN EMITTED BY HIGH-FLYING AIRCRAFT AND INORGANIC FERTILIZERS AND FLOUROROCARBONS USED AS REFRIGERANTS OR IN SPRAY CANS AS AEROSOLS ARE ALL CONSIDERED AS POTENTIAL HAZARDS.

A CONFERENCE ON THIS PROBLEM WAS RECOMMENDED AT THE MEETING OF UNEP'S GOVERNING COUNCIL IN NAIROBI LAST APRIL. UNQUOTE.
MARSHALL

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